THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A number of cases where the importers had misdeclared to Customs the cargo being imported in containers have been noticed in the recent past. During the period from May, 1990 to February, 1991 the Customs authorities at Madras have seized goods like gold, silver, tin ingots, zinc ingots, coated fabrics, ball bearings etc. Valued at approximately Rs. 8.75 crores that had been misdeclared as silicon, zinc, ash and certain chemicals, which are allowed to be imported under Open General Licence and carry a lower incidence of duty. Whereas the goods in the front portion of the containers conformed to the description declared before the Customs authorities the goods in the middle and rear portion of the containers comprised of the misdeclared goods.

(c) The Customs Houses have been alerted against smuggling by this *modus operandi* and the emerging trends so that the examination of cargo being imported in containers is tightened. The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence which is the apex agency for the collection, collation and dissemination of intelligence on smuggling is providing active assistance to the Custom Houses and is also acting on its own directly to curb such smuggling.

Doubling of rep percentage to reduce Imports

1030. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to double the REP percentage rate to reduce imports through the normal licensing procedure;

(b) if so, what decision, if any, has been taken by Government in this regard;

(c) what is the main objective in introducing the system;

(d) whether it would substantially reduce value realisation with the reduction of price by the importers;

(e) whether super REP licences would generate black money; and

(f) if so, what corrective measures are contemplated by Government in this direction?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAMDAS PATEL): (a) to (f) Review of Import and Export Policy and Procedures is a continuous process and necessary measures are taken from time to time keeping in view the needs of the economy.

Incentives to NRIs'

1031. SHRI JAGESH DESAI:
CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any fresh incentives are being offered to the NRIs' to attract substantial investments in view of the financial constraints being faced by the country for developmental works; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) A large number of schemes/facilities were announced in 1982 to attract NRI investment. Government still attaches importance to investment by NRIs and has been taking a number of steps to make such investment attractive. The policies and schemes framed to attract investment by Non-Resident Indians are continuously reviewd in the light of suggestions received from different quarters including NRIs and NRI organisations. Constant effort is also make to streamline the procedures with a view to removing irritants and bottlenecks for prospective NRI investors. Government has recently set up a Co-ordination Committee to sort out any problems that might arise in the implementation of Government decisions and to respond to advice given by various NRIs' and NRI organisation and suggestions received in this regard.